



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

Frank J. Magill, Acting United States Attorney

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stillwater man indicted for tax evasion

A 44-year-old Stillwater man was indicted Jan. 8 by a federal grand jury on multiple counts of tax evasion and filing false tax returns.

Jeffrey Siewert was charged with three counts of tax evasion and three counts of filing a false tax return. Siewert's indictment alleges that from approximately Jan. 1, 2000 through April 15, 2003, he engaged in various acts of evasion for the purpose of concealing income.

Siewert was the president and sole shareholder of Sieco Construction Inc., a construction company located in Minneapolis. For each of the tax years 2000, 2001 and 2002, he filed tax forms on behalf of Sieco, which was a "Chapter S" corporation. As a S corporation, Sieco was not required to pay income tax itself, but the company's profits or losses were attributable to Siewert.

While concealing the income he received from Sieco, Siewert allegedly evaded his personal income tax. Acts included in this alleged evasion include ordering company employees to perform construction jobs on his personal residence and classifying those personal expenses as business expenses. Siewert also allegedly purchased a GMC Yukon and a fifth-wheel camper for personal use with company funds and then depreciated the same vehicle as a business asset.

The indictment alleges that on Oct. 11, 2001, Siewert willfully attempted to evade paying taxes on more than \$75,000 in income; on April 15, 2002, he attempted to evade paying taxes on more than \$90,000 in income; and on April 15, 2003, he attempted to evade paying taxes on more than \$40,000 in income.

If convicted, Siewert faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison on each tax evasion count and three years on each false tax return count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James E. Lackner.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.